

REMARKS

The Office Action of May 12, 2011, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over the patent to Jeppesen in view of DE 19857045 to Bar.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Jeppesen in view of Bar, and further in view of the patent to Biallas.

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Jeppesen in view of Bar, and further in view of the patent to Kapp-Schwoerer et al.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Jeppesen in view of Bar, and further in view of the patent to Nussbaumer et al.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has canceled claim 4, amended claims 1 and 2, and added new dependent claims 6 and 7.

With the amendments to claim 2 it is respectfully submitted that this claim particularly points out and distinctly claims the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of this claim under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references, and particularly to the patent to Jeppesen, it can be seen that this patent discloses a method and apparatus for the coating of individual items.

The Bar reference discloses coating and drying objects by way of infrared radiation.

The Examiner combined these references in determining that

claims 1 and 3 would be unpatentable over such combination. Applicant submits that the combination of references does not teach cooling plates arranged in the region of NIR driers, as presently recited in amended claim 1.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The patent to Biallas discloses a laboratory drier. The Examiner combined this reference with Jeppesen and Bar in determining that claim 2 would be unpatentable over such combination. Biallas adds nothing to the teachings of the previously discussed references so as to teach the presently claimed invention. There is no teaching by Biallas et al. of cooling plates arranged as recited in amended claim 1.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The patent to Kapp-Schwoerer discloses a curtain coating

process. The Examiner combined this reference with Jeppesen and Bar in determining that claim 4 would be unpatentable over such combination. Although Kapp-Schwoerer discloses a conveyor belt that rides on a cooled metal plate, there is no disclosure of lateral cooling plates as in the presently claimed invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The patent to Nussbaumer has also been considered. Applicant submits that this patent adds nothing to the teachings of Jeppesen and Bar so as to teach the invention recited in the claims presently on file. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is also overcome and should be withdrawn.

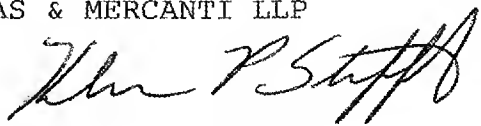
Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with the application may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

LUCAS & MERCANTI LLP

By



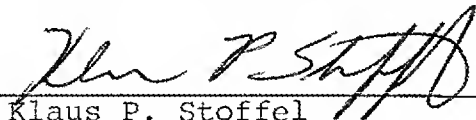
Klaus P. Stoffel
Reg. No. 31,668
475 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016
(212) 661-8000

Dated: August 12, 2011

CERTIFICATE OF EFS-WEB TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by EFS-web to the Commissioner for Patents on August 12, 2011.

By:


Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: August 12, 2011